

## AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 259

Published by  
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY  
New York City

March 18, 1927

59.57,96(51)  
59.57,96(52.9)

## A FEW ANTS FROM CHINA AND FORMOSA

BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER

Some additional ants taken by Professor N. Gist Gee near Peking and by Mr. R. Takahashi on the Island of Formosa have reached me and seem worth recording in connection with several papers recently published by Dr. F. Santschi and myself on Chinese, Indochinese and Burmese Formicidæ.

*Leptogenys (Lobopelta) diminuta* F. Smith subsp. *palliseri* Forel.—Five workers from Taihoku, Formosa (R. Takahashi).

*Messor lobulifer* Emery.—Four workers from Tsinghua, near Peking (Gee).

*Crematogaster (Acrocælia) brunnea* F. Smith subsp. *rabula* Forel.—Eight workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

*Monomorium minutum* Mayr var. *chinense* Santschi.—Several workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

*Solenopsis gekminata* Fabricius subsp. *rufa* Jerdon.—Numerous workers from Peking (Gee).

**Leptothorax congruus** F. Smith var. **eburneipes**, new variety

WORKER.—Very much like the typical Japanese *congruus* and its var. *spinosior* Forel in structure, sculpture and pilosity, and like the latter in having long epinotal spines curved inward and downward, but the petiolar node is much more angular above in profile, the postpetiole is more rounded on the sides and less rectangular and the legs are paler, being ivory-yellow, with only the femora infuscated in the middle. The paler portions of the mandibles, antennæ and tips of the epinotal spines are also ivory-yellow and not brownish or reddish as in the Japanese forms.

Three workers from Kuliang, near Kiu-Kiang (Gee).

One of the specimens is larger than the others, with more robust thorax, stouter epinotal spines, larger eyes and possesses three minute ocelli. It is therefore to be regarded as an ergatoid female, a phase not infrequent in colonies of several species of *Leptothorax*.

**Leptothorax galeatus**, new species

WORKER.—Length 2.6 mm.

Head rounded rectangular, distinctly longer than broad, as broad in front as behind, with rather large, moderately convex eyes placed near the middle of its sides. Mandibles thin and rather broad, with five blunt, subequal teeth. Clypeus evenly

convex, with projecting, semicircularly rounded, entire anterior border. Frontal area elongate triangular, not very sharply defined; frontal carinae feebly diverging posteriorly. Antennae 12-jointed; scapes reaching nearly to the posterior border of the head; funicular joints 2-8 small, subequal, transverse; club large, 3-jointed, sharply set off from the remainder of the funiculus, the terminal joint longer than the two basal subequal joints together. Thorax rather long, with evenly rounded but not very convex dorsal outline and rather rounded humeri, without promesonotal or mesoepinotal sutures or impressions; epinotal spines very long, thin, laterally compressed and acute, directed upward, backward and outward and slightly curved downward, considerably longer than the distance between their bases. Declivity of epinotum nearly vertical, concave in the middle. Petiole with a distinct, laterally compressed peduncle, unarmed beneath, the node rather low, a little longer than broad when seen from above, its anterior surface concave, its dorsal surface feebly convex, the two surfaces meeting at a distinct but rounded angle. Postpetiole subrectangular, about one-fourth broader than long and nearly one-third broader than the petiolar node. Gaster rather large, elliptical, the first segment arcuately excised anteriorly. Legs rather long and slender.

Subopaque; gaster very smooth and shining. Mandibles finely punctate-striate; clypeus reticulate, with a few stronger longitudinal rugules; head longitudinally rugulose, the rugules about 12 in number between the frontal carinae; the interrugal spaces finely but distinctly reticulate. Corners of head, gula, thorax, petiole and postpetiole very finely and densely punctate-reticulate, the thoracic dorsum, especially the pronotum, also loosely, reticularly rugulose.

Hairs yellowish, sparse; obtuse on the head, thorax, and pedicel, pointed on the gaster; shorter and rather numerous on the head; small, sparse and appressed on the legs and scapes.

Yellowish ferruginous; mandibular teeth, antennal clubs, cheeks, a broad band covering the space between the frontal carinae and extending to the occipital articulation, first gastric segment above except a large transverse spot at the anterior margin, posterior portion of second and following segments, dark brown; mandibles, extreme tips of antennae, funiculi, scapes, legs, posterior borders of gastric segments and venter honey-yellow.

A single specimen from Tsinghua (Gee).

This beautiful species is allied to *L. congruus* but is larger, with longer thorax, longer epinotal spines, different color, etc.

*Tetramorium caespitum* Linnæus subsp. *jacoti* Wheeler.—Numerous workers from Tsinghua and Peking (Gee).

***Tapinoma geei* Wheeler var. *tinctum*, new variety**

WORKER.—Averaging somewhat smaller (1.6-2.6 mm.) and differing from the typical *gee* of the same locality in having slightly larger and more convex eyes, the clypeal notch a little deeper, the antennal scapes slightly shorter and especially in the sculpture and pubescence, the whole body and especially the head and thorax being much less shining, more densely punctulate and covered with somewhat longer, denser and more sordid yellowish pubescence.

Numerous workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

*Plagiolepis manczshurica* Ruzsky.—Several workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

***Camponotus punctatissimus* Emery subsp. *formosensis*,  
new subspecies**

WORKER MAJOR.—Length 11 mm.

Differing from the typical form from Burma in not having the anterior clypeal margin advanced and in the distribution of the long, dense, grayish yellow pubescence. The clypeal lobe is very short and narrow with blunt, rounded corners. Pubescence as long and dense on the thorax, especially on the pronotum, as on the gaster where it nearly conceals the surface. The occiput bears similar long, appressed pubescence, directed forward like that on the thorax. Black and nearly opaque like the typical form, very finely and densely punctate, with larger, oblique, piligerous punctures. Erect hairs on occiput, thorax and gaster long and abundant. Legs somewhat more shining. Head, except occiput, with very short, scattered, appressed pubescence; scapes with longer, tibiae with very short suberect hairs.

A single specimen taken by Mr. R. Takahashi at Taihoku, Formosa.

*Camponotus japonicus* Mayr. var. *aterrimus* Emery.—Thirteen workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

*Polyrhachis (Myrma) wolffi* Forel.—A single worker from Taihoku, Formosa (R. Takahashi).

*Lasius niger* Linnæus.—Many workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

*Formica rufibarbis* Fabricius var. *sinensis* Emery.—Eleven workers from Peking (Gee).

*Formica rufibarbis* var. *glabridorsis* Santschi.—Numerous workers from Tsinghua (Gee).

*Polyergus samurai* Yano.—A study of three worker cotypes of this Japanese amazon ant, received many years ago from Mr. M. Yano, convinces me that it should rank as a distinct species and not as a subspecies of the European *rufescens* Latreille. It differs decidedly from *rufescens* in the opaque integument, very dark color, much less abundant pilosity, finer pubescence on the gaster and in the shape of the head and epinotum. The former is narrowed and trapezoidal behind the eyes, and therefore much less rounded than in the European species, and the epinotum is much more angular in profile. The whole body is somewhat smaller and less robust and the legs and tips of the antennal scapes are slightly more slender than in *rufescens*. Yano found the slaves of this ant to be *Formica fusca* L. var. *japonica* Motschulsky, a variety which curiously enough has the same opaque sculpture as *P. samurai*.

***Polyergus samurai* Yano subsp. *mandarin*, new subspecies**

WORKER.—Length 5–5.5 mm.

Differing from the typical *samurai* in color and in the shape of the petiole. The color is even darker, being brownish black, with only a faint tinge of red on the occiput, gula and pleural sutures. The legs and scapes are also darker, as dark as the body of the typical *samurai*, the trochanters, antennal funiculi and tips of tarsi brownish red. Mandibles smooth and shining; remainder of body and appendages nearly opaque, very finely and densely punctulate. Hairs and pubescence sordid yellowish and not more abundant than in the type. Petiole much more compressed antero-posteriorly and less thickened above, its superior border very distinctly emarginate in the middle, in one specimen broadly and deeply. Head broader than in the typical *samurai* but of the same shape, that is narrowed behind the eyes, with straight posteriorly converging sides and straight posterior border.

Described from two specimens taken by Professor Gee at Tsinghua, near Peking.

The same vial contained numerous specimens of *Formica rufibarbis* var. *glabridorsis* Santschi which is probably the slave of the new subspecies. In its sculpture and sparse pilosity this *Formica* also resembles the amazon.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Since this paper was written I have received from Prof. F. Silverstri several workers of *P. samurai* which he collected near Tokio in a nest of *P. japonica*. These specimens are quite as dark as those of the subsp. *mandarin*, but the petiole of all of them is narrower and less thickened above, with entire superior border, and the mesothoracic spiracles are much more closely approximated so that they lie in the meso-pinotal impression. Additional material may show that there is really very little or no difference between the Japanese and Chinese forms of the species.